

New Patent claims

1.

A method related to ordering lottery tickets in a lottery associated with a person's receipt of return value in trade in goods, establishing in connection with an order a communication link between a point-of-trade and a central, external database server (computer), information elements being transferred to the central database server, the information elements being registered in the database server, and communication being made back from the database server to the point-of-trade that lottery tickets have been allocated, characterized in

- reserving a number of lottery tickets or shares in the lottery upon registration of information elements in the database server, and in addition communicating back from the database server to the point-of-trade such reservation together with other information elements, and
- 15 - either: confirming through action from said person lottery ticket order to cause issuance of lottery ticket with lottery number(s) and serial number/control code, sending confirmation from the point-of-trade to the database server via the communication link that lottery ticket has been issued to the person, and storing actual lottery number(s) thereby in the database server,
- 20 - or: issuing to said person a receipt for cash payment:
  - a) if through action of said person those in the database reserved lottery tickets or lottery shares are caused to be cancelled, or
  - b) upon failure in said communication link, and
- 25 - using as point-of-trade a return vending machine for receiving empty packaging in the form of bottles and/or cans for beverages having said return value.

2.

A method related to ordering lottery tickets in a lottery in association with a person's receipt of a return value in trade in goods, the return value usable for buying lottery tickets, a communication link in connection with an order intended to be established between a point-of-trade and a central, external database server (computer), where it is intended to transfer to the central database server information elements for registering in the database server and subsequent communication back from the database server to the point-of-trade that lottery tickets have been allocated, characterized in

- using as the point-of-trade a return vending machine for receiving empty packaging like bottles and/or cans for beverages having a return value,

- allocating from a local database in the return vending machine a lottery ticket based on the monetary value or the return value which has been staked and which corresponds to the return value of returned empty packaging, and with information applied upon the person's activation of a device on the return vending machine for desired purchase of lottery tickets and when a communication link between the return vending machine and a central, external database server (computer) arbitrarily cannot be established,
- upon the established communication link transferring from the return vending machine to the central database server information elements elected from the group: return vending machine identity, time for stake, lottery number series, e.g. with start and end numbers, lottery tickets serial number or control code, monetary value of stake, number of lottery tickets, draw time, deadline for playing the lottery, person related identification, and
- registering the information elements in the database server and adding to the lottery series of the lottery tickets to participate in a lottery draw.

3.

A method as disclosed in claim 2, characterized in

- pre-allocating the lottery ticket number series to the reverse vending machine when the reverse vending machine has a communication link with the database server; said the lottery ticket serial number or control code either being allocated randomly from a serial number/control code package downloaded in the reverse vending machine from the database server, or generated locally in the reverse vending machine using an algorithm.

4.

A method as disclosed in anyone of claims 1 – 3, characterized in

- establishing the communication line via a TCP/IP network.

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5.

A method as disclosed in anyone of claims 1 – 4, characterized in

- checking in the database server the identity of the reverse vending machine against an identity-related address register to be able to announce where winning lottery tickets have been issued.

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A method as disclosed in one or more of claims 1 –5, characterized in

- that the serial number or control code of the ticket is unique to the issued lottery ticket.

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7.

A method as disclosed in claim 6, characterized in

- that the control code is generated non-serially in the database server.

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8.

A method according to one or more of claims 1 –7, characterized in

- that the information elements are selected from the group consisting of:
  - the identity of the reverse vending machine,
  - the time of the stake
  - the monetary value of the stake, which corresponds to the return value of the returned empty packaging,
  - customer-related identification;
  - a ticket number series, e.g. with start and end number,
  - the serial number or control code of the ticket
  - the monetary value of the stake,
  - the number of tickets,
  - the time of the draw,
  - the deadline for playing the lottery,
  - graphic elements,
  - optional guiding information.

9.

A system related to ordering lottery tickets in a lottery associated with a person's receipt of return value upon trade in goods, where the return value can be used for purchase of lottery tickets, wherein in connection with the ordering there is established a communication link between a point-of-trade and a central, external database server (computer), wherein there is transferred to the central database server information elements, wherein information elements are registered in the database server, and wherein there is communicated back from the database server to the point-of-trade that lottery tickets have been allocated, characterized in

- that the point-of-trade is a return vending machine for return of empty packaging, such as e.g. bottles and/or cans for beverages,  
- registration and reservation means in the database server which upon registration of information elements being capable of reserving a number of lottery tickets or shares in the lottery and in addition communicating back to the point-of-trade such reservation together with other information elements,  
5 - operating means on the return vending machine designed to receive from the person confirmation action of lottery order,  
- means in the return vending machine capable of causing either: confirmation to be sent from the point-of-trade to the database server via the communication link that lottery tickets are issued to the person, to store in the database server actual lottery number(s), or: issuance of a receipt for cash payment if a) said person instead chooses through activation of operating means on the return vending machine to cancel those in the database server reserved lottery tickets or lottery shares or b) upon failure in said communication link.  
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10. System related to ordering lottery tickets in a lottery associated with a person's receipt of a return value in trade in goods, wherein the return value can be used for lottery ticket purchase, wherein in connection with the ordering there is intended to be established a communication link between a point-of-trade and a central, external database server (computer), and wherein it is intended to be transferred to the central database server information elements for registering in the database server and subsequent communication back from the database server to the point-of-trade that tickets have been allocated, characterized in  
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- that the point-of-trade is a return vending machine for receiving empty packaging such as bottles and/or cans for beverages,
- that operating means are located on the return vending machine to receive confirmation from the person about required purchase of lottery tickets when a communication link between the return vending machine and a central, external database server (computer) arbitrarily is not to be established,
- allocating means in the return vending machine to allocate from a local database in the return vending machine a lottery ticket based on the monetary value or the return value which has been put at stake and which corresponds to the return value of the returned empty packaging, and with information applied thereon,
- transfer means in the return vending machine adapted to upon re-established communication link to transfer from the return vending machine to the central

- database server information elements elected from the group: return vending machine identity, time of the stake, lottery ticket number series, e.g. which start and end number, lottery ticket serial number or control code, monetary value of the stake, number of tickets, time of the draw, deadline for playing the lottery, person related identification, and
- 5            - registering means in the database server which registers the information elements and supplies the lottery series to the lottery tickets to a participate in the lottery draw.
- 10          11. A system using a return vending machine to handle a return value of empty packaging, e.g. empty packaging in the form of bottles, cans or containers for beverages and nutrition means, wherein the return vending machine has first and second devices for letting a person indicate either by activating the first device that there is to be issued a receipt related to the return value of the empty packaging for subsequent cash payment from the receiver of the empty packaging, or by activating the second device that the return value of the empty packaging is to be used in a different way, characterized in
- 15          - ordering means in the return vending machine which upon the activation by the person of the second device is capable of ordering participation in a lottery with a number of lottery tickets related to return values of the empty packaging, and to activate via a communication line a link to a central database server (computer), and
- 20          - issuing means for upon a registered communication failure in the link with the database server instead to issue a receipt for cash payment.
- 25          12. System related to ordering lottery tickets in a lottery associated with a person's receipt of a return value in trade in goods, wherein the return value can be used for lottery ticket purchase, wherein in connection with the ordering there is intended to be established a communication link between a point-of-trade and a central, external database server (computer), wherein it is intended to be transferred to the central database server information elements for registering in the database server and subsequent communication back from the database server to the point-of-trade that tickets have been allocated, characterized in
- 30          - that the point-of-trade is a return vending machine for receiving empty packaging, such as bottles and/or cans for beverages,
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- operating means means in the return vending machine which can be activated by the person, said means being capable upon non-establishable communication link between the return vending machine and a central, external database server (computer) to allocate to the person from a local database in the return vending machine a lottery ticket based on:
  - 5 - return value which has been put at stake and which corresponds to the return value of the returned empty packaging, and with information applied,
  - issuing means in the return vending machine for issuing the lottery ticket,
  - transfer means in the return vending machine which upon re-established
  - 10 communication link enables transfer to the central database server of information elements, and
  - registering means in the database server to enable registration of information elements and to supply the lottery series to the lottery tickets to participate in a lottery draw.

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13.

A system as disclosed in claim 12, characterized in

- that the reverse vending machine has a unit designed to receive pre-allocated lottery ticket number series from the database server when the reverse vending machine has a communication link with the database server; and
- that said unit is capable of receiving a download from the database server of a lottery ticket serial number or control code package and to allocate issued lottery tickets serial numbers or control code selectively, e.g., randomly from the package, or generated locally in the reverse vending machine using an algorithm.

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14.

A system as disclosed in one of claims 9 - 13, characterised in

- that the serial number or control code that is provided on the lottery ticket is a code that is unique to the issued lottery ticket.

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15.

A system as disclosed in claim 14, characterised in

- that the serial number or control code is generated non-serially.

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16.

A system as disclosed in one or more of claims 9 - 15, characterised in

- that the issuing means is a printer, e.g., a thermal printer.

17.

A system as disclosed in one or more of the preceding claims 9 - 16,  
characterized in

- 5    -    that the information elements are selectable from the group of: return vending  
machine identity, time of stake, lottery ticket number series, e.g. with start and  
end number, lottery ticket serial number or control code, monetary value of the  
stake, number of tickets, the time of the draw, the deadline for playing the  
lottery, customer related identification, graphic elements, optional guiding  
10      information.

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